

Widespread Hospitality

The Italian Interior Ministry through the Prefectures is distributing r asylum seekers on the Italian national territory, according to State - Regions agreements.

Normally Italian Prefectures find places on territories for the reception and were to house asylum seekers through public procedures.

Forlì is a northern Italy city in Emilia-Romagna with a 117.820 inhabitants and it is the capital of the province of Forlì-Cesena and it is located at the heart of the region.

In 2014 the “Unione dei comuni della Romagna forlivese” (the Union of Romagna Municipalities, hereinafter “Union”) was founded. 15 Municipalities of the Forlì-Cesena Province, which include Forlì itself, are part of this Union.

The aim of the Union is: improve services, guarantee equal access to services for the residents of the Union, promote and coordinate a well balanced development of the territory for the benefit of future generations.

The Municipality of Forlì working within the Unione, has chosen to look for and to run directly reception facilities. With this aim an agreement was signed between the Union and the Forlì-Cesena Prefecture in January 2015 that kicked off the project “Widespread Hospitality”.

Under the agreement the Unione is allowed to manage and to oversee the project in question.

The Municipality of Forlì and the Unione under the project will :

- Adopt a sustainable approach in the Union to deal with the asylum seekers problem avere un approccio sostenibile e a livello territoriale
- To promote the integration of asylum seekers in local communities of the Unione. asylum seekers are organized in "small groups". This allows a proper welcome and avoid negative social impact. Each Municipality will welcome and support asylum seekers according to its own available resources and funds.
- The Municipalities of the Union, during their jointly weekly meetings will share information on how to offer hospitality to asylum seekers and how to manage it in their local context.
- In order to encourage and increase integration, for example, a neighborhood committees working alongside asylum seekers are being ask to organize the joint care of the common areas.
- Seek and promote jointly autonomous paths for those being received through the cooperation of Public Administrations, regional and national institutions, the third sector and the involvement of citizens in order to ensure social cohesion and territorial development.
- Coordinate and manage the hospitality in the Union to generate responsibilities in shared

projects and services taking into account also those projects already underway as projects against poverty and support for those families facing extreme poverty and already residing in our context

- to keep management of the Municipalities hospitality within the Union

To pursue the objectives listed above Municipalities have adopted the following instruments:

- adoption of a asylum seekers distribution plan among all municipalities;
- identification of a coordinator-manager for all the Unione territory. ASP S.Vincenzo de Paoli a S.Sofia has been chosen : a non centralised coordinator (intentionally Fit has been chosen a decentralised coordinator and not Forlì (which is the capital city);
- maintaining a close connection the hotel reception functions and those of mediation and cultural integration through Italian language courses;
- adoption of a widespread hospitality, for placing asylum seekers mainly in civil dwellings, avoiding excessive concentrations (max. 20 places);
- adoption of an operators network by giving them a share of resources for cross-cutting projects of shared cooperation (emergency, job placement, sports, ...).

Future goals: maintain social cohesion and prevent racism and xenophobia in the face of an increasing flow of asylum seekers.